Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Sir, I am very glad that the Hon'ble Member for Medicine has wholeheartedly supported my resolution, though he has not expressed it in so many words. He assures me and this House that the Government will be prepared to render all possible help if the non-official section will take the initiative and bring this matter to the notice of the Government with a view to see that a branch of the Red Cross Society is opened in Cochin State. Although the Hon'ble Minister did not express any opinion, I hope that he will also be doing his best to see that a branch is organised and worked in the State. I think it will serve no useful purpose to press this resolution to a division in the above circumstances. With the assurance given by the Chief Medical Officer, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution, by leave, withdrawn

7. Appointing Lady Members of the Legislative Council as Honorary Visitors in the Hospitals in their Constituencies

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Mr. President, Sir, the resolution which stands in my name and which I rise to move is this.—"*This Council recommends to the Government that the Lady Members of the Legislative Council representing Ernakulam and Trichur Women Constituencies may be appointed ex-officio Honorary Visitors of the General Hospital, Ernakulam, and Maternity Hospital, Trichur, respectively.*"

Sir, no other subject of discussion in this House has given me greater pleasure than this. Many interesting features, according to me, are present in this resolution which will induce the Government also to accept it. First of all, so far as the Ernakulam and Trichur hospitals are concerned and especially the maternity hospitals, it needs no argument—and it will be foolish on my part to attempt it—to establish that it is the women who are primarily concerned with them and a sense of chivalry makes me say that nobody is more concerned in the welfare of the women and children of these places, than the members of the Council who are the accredited representatives of the women of these localities. What is more, in a place where communalism is rampant in one form or another these two representatives in the Council are the only members who come through an anticommunal and a general electorate representing women of all castes and creeds and communities.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* And also men.

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Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Yes, and also men. Even as it is defined in the Criminal Procedure Code, men include women, in this case women include men also so far as elections to these constituencies are concerned. I believe, the ladies who come to the Council with a view to serve the interests of the women of these two constituencies will be public spirited enough to accept the posts of honorary visitors in these hospitals. It is but proper, and even necessary, if I may so, for the lady representatives in this Council to be in touch with and know the details of the hospitals and also to have an effective voice in the administration of the hospitals situated in their constituencies. Nobody is more fitted for the work than women by nature. The tender feelings that animate the women's mind is peculiarly suited for work in connection with the supervision of hospitals, and as we all know, the nursing profession is, as it were, monopolised by women, although an attempt has been made recently in British India to have male nurses also. Of course, anybody who has got any experience of nursing will no doubt agree with me when I say that lady nurses are more agreeable to patients than male nurses, because by nature, ladies are more fitted for nursing than men. The maternal instincts in them manifest themselves at the time of nursing and no woman does a nobler work than attending to the sick. Therefore it is only proper that the lady representatives of these constituencies who represent the women of those constituencies should get themselves well acquainted with the work carried on in the hospital and also should be kept in touch with the administration of these institutions, so that they can make proper representations in the Council after looking into what all are taking place in these institutions. I believe, I am arguing unnecessarily in support of this proposition and I expect that the Government will consider the feasibility of accepting this resolution.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Sir, I second the resolution.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: അവരെ നോമിനേറ്റുചെയ്യുകഴിഞ്ഞോ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: നോമിനേറ്റുചെയ്യുകഴിഞ്ഞു.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: അതു് ഈ റസല്യൂഷൻ കിട്ടിയതിനു ശേഷമാണോ?

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* This resolution does not apply to any particular individuals. The present members may have been nominated. But the resolution recommends that the representatives from these constituencies should be nominated in future also.

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Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I have tabled the following amendment to the resolutions.—

(*i*) *Remove the letter "s" at the end of the words* (*a*) *"members"* (*b*) *"visitors".*

(*ii*) (*a*) *remove the words "and Trichur Women Constituencies."*

(*b*) *"general"*

(*c*) *"Maternity Hospital, Trichur respectively"*

(*iii*) (*a*) *add the word "s" at the end of the word "Hospital"*

(*b*) *insert the words "all the" between the words "the" and "Ernakulam"*

(*c*) *add the words "and Mattancheri"*

(*d*) *insert the word "in" between the words "Hospital" and "Ernakulam".*

(*iv*) *Add at the end of the Resolution after the word "Mattancheri" referred to in* (*iii*) (*b*) *as follows.—*

"and the Lady Member representing Trichur Women Constituency be appointed ex-officio Honorary Visitor of all the hospitals in Trichur."

Deputy President: I think it is better for you to read the resolution as amended to make it clear.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I shall read the resolution as amended.—*"This Council recommends to the Government that the Lady Member of the Legislative Council representing Ernakulam may be appointed ex-officio Honorary Visitor of all the hospitals in Ernakulam and Mattancheri and the Lady Member representing Trichur Women's Constituency be appointed ex-officio Honorary Visitor of all the hospitals in Trichur."*

Sir, I have only extended the scope of Mr. Subramania Ayyar's resolution, with a view as far as possible, to have a wider area of activity the lady members. As for Mr. Subramania Ayyar's view about the appointment of male nurses and the womanly instinct of nursing, I agree with the idea of having male nurses. After some years the males will get the instinct of women to nurse (*Laughter*). This is an experiment tried by such an eminent Health Minister as Dr. T. S. S. Rajan in Madras and you have no right to criticise him. After some years a sort of evolution will come in male hearts to nurse people. As for the resolution itself I hope my hon'ble friend the leader of the Progressive Party will accept my amendment.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Sir, I second the amendment.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Offg. Chief Medical Officer):* Sir, the general principles underlying the resolution put forward by the leader of the Progressive Party are very progressive indeed. I am not sure whether I heard him correctly when he said that these visitors should really take part in the administration of the hospitals.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* Whatever powers the honorary visitors can generally have, may be given to them. That is all.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Offg. Chief Medical Officer):* Then that is all right. Government have great pleasure in accepting the resolution in a general way, provided of course the lady members are willing to accept the posts.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* What about my amendment?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Offg. Chief Medical Officer):* The general principles underlying the resolution are accepted and the details such as contemplated by the amendment will be considered by the Government.

Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar *(Nemmara):* I would suggest that if they are put to the necessity of honorary work, you should also see that their functions are not greatly enhanced. The Ernakulam Member may find it hard to visit Mattancheri.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* We would be glad of a visit from the lady member to Mattancheri off and on.

Dr. T. Verghese *(Offg. Chief Medical Officer):* Let us try Ernakulam and Trichur in the first place. Later on we can extend it to Mattancheri.

Deputy President: Then does the hon'ble member withdraw his amendment?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I do not think there is any necessity of pressing the amendment. The general principle has already been accepted by the Government.

Deputy President: There are only two courses open. Either the amendment must be accepted or it should be put to vote.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* As the principle is accepted, I beg to withdraw the amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn
Resolution, accepted

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